



Bureau of Land Management

UTAH
NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

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Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Planned for Tooele County

Salt Lake City, Utah-The Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, will initiate a mechanical juniper removal project on public land managed by the BLM this spring, along Johnson's Pass (SR 199), connecting Skull Valley and Rush Valley in Tooele County. The Big Hollow project has received joint funding and support from the Watershed Restoration Initiative and local landowners in favor of the secondary ecosystem benefits including watershed and sagebrush restoration. The mechanical treatment is expected to last through the fall of 2010.

"Big Hollow is a great example of different disciplines working together toward a common vision. The primary purpose of the Big Hollow project is to improve public safety by reducing the risk for high-intensity wildfires traveling through the canopy. When the Watershed Restoration Initiative came on board to supply seed and expertise, our original investment was modified to accommodate diversified interests toward improving overall range and watershed health." said Fuels Manager Brook Chadwick.

Local residents, commuters and recreationists can expect to see heavy equipment in the area, scattered juniper chips and fewer trees. Initially the area will look a lot different; the tree debris will have an orange color for the first year, and sometimes this can be a stark contrast against the green of standing junipers. In time, the biomass produced by debris will fade, seedlings will start to sprout and wildlife will benefit from the forage and forbs that have been inhibited by the thick juniper stand.

For more information www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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The BLM manages more land - 253 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

